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Ashley Johnson

Ashley Suzanne Johnson (born August 9, 1983) is an American actress. She became known as a child actor for her role as Chrissy Seaver on the sitcom *Growing Pains* (1990–1992). As an adult, her television roles include Amber Ahmed on *The Killing* (2011–2012) and Patterson on *Blindspot* (2015–2020). She has appeared in films such as *What Women Want* (2000), *Fast Food Nation* (2006), *The Help* (2011), and *Much Ado About Nothing* (2012), and is a cast member on the *Dungeons & Dragons* web series *Critical Role* (2015–present). She became the president of the show's charity branch, the Critical Role Foundation, upon its launch in 2020.

Ashley Johnson

Johnson in 2024

Born	Ashley Suzanne Johnson August 9, 1983 Camarillo, California, U.S.
Occupation	Actress
Years active	1990–present
Relatives	Jonny Lang (brother-in-law)

Johnson provided the voice and motion capture of Ellie in the video games *The Last of Us* (2013), *The Last of Us: Left Behind* (2014), and *The Last of Us Part II* (2020). She also voiced animated television characters Gretchen Grundler on *Recess* (1997–2001), Terra on *Teen Titans* (2004–2006) and *Teen Titans Go!* (2013–present), Jinmay on *Super Robot Monkey Team Hyperforce Go!* (2004–2006), Gwen Tennyson in the *Ben 10* franchise (2008–2014), Renet Tilley on *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* (2012), Shiseru on *Naruto: Shippuden* (2015), Tulip Olsen and Lake on *Infinity Train* (2019–2020), Pike in *The Legend of Vox Machina* (2022–present), and Purple in *Among Us* (2026). Her other video game work includes voicing Gortys in *Tales from the Borderlands* (2014) and Petra in *Minecraft: Story Mode* (2015–2016) and its sequel (2017).

Johnson has won two BAFTA Games Awards for Performer, winning once each for her performances in *The Last of Us* and *The Last of Us: Left Behind* and is the only person to have won the award more than once. She also received multiple nominations for her performance in *The Last of Us Part II*.

Early life

Ashley Suzanne Johnson was born on August 9, 1983,[1][2][3] in Camarillo, California,[2] the daughter of former test pilot Nancy (née Spruiell)[4] and exploration ship captain Cliff Johnson.[5] She has an older brother named Chris and an older sister named Haylie, both of whom have also worked as actors. Her sister later married singer and musician Jonny Lang.[6] Her father was often away for

months at a time and would bring back souvenirs from countries such as Japan.[5] He started a new job nine days after Johnson was born and subsequently moved the family to Franklin, Michigan, where they lived for a few years before returning to California and settling in Los Angeles.[5] Johnson attended school in nearby Burbank when her acting career allowed but otherwise had an on-set teacher.[7] She later studied violin and piano at the International School of Music in Glendale.[5] When she was 16, her father died of complications from hepatitis C and cancer of the liver and lungs.[8][9] Johnson needed a back brace for three years due to scoliosis and kyphosis, which affected her during her high school years.[7]

Career

Johnson's career began at age six, when she played the role of Chrissy Seaver on the sitcom *Growing Pains* from 1990 to 1992. The character's age was accelerated from a toddler between seasons for plotting purposes. By the time she was 12, Johnson had been in the casts of eight television series. She later reprised her role as Chrissy in *The Growing Pains Movie* and *Growing Pains: Return of the Seavers*. In the one season series *Phenom* (1993–94), she played the mischievous younger sister of a rising teenage tennis star. She appeared in the 1994 sitcom *All-American Girl*, which also lasted for only one season. She played DJ's overbearing girlfriend Lisa in the *Roseanne* episode "The Blaming of the Shrew". During the 1995–96 ABC lineup, she played Gracie Wallace in the sitcom *Maybe This Time*. She played Alex Marshall in the 2000 comedy *What Women Want*. In 2008, she became a regular on the drama *Dirt* as Sharlee Cates. In 2009, Johnson appeared in "Omega", the first-season finale of Joss Whedon's *Dollhouse*.

Johnson in 2014

In 2012, she appeared in *The Avengers* (also directed by Whedon) as Beth, the waitress who is saved by Captain America. She was intended to appear in future films as his newest love interest (as implied in a brief scene in the film), but that plan was shelved and instead actress Emily VanCamp's Sharon Carter character became involved with Rogers. Although her role was minor, the Blu-ray edition of *The Avengers* contains some deleted scenes that expand her role in the film and further her interactions with Rogers.[2][10] From 2015 to 2020, Johnson played FBI forensic specialist Patterson in the NBC drama series *Blindspot*.[11]

As a voice actress, Johnson's earlier roles included Sean in the English dub of *The First Snow of Winter*, Gretchen Grundler on Disney's *Recess*, Terra in the second and fifth seasons of *Teen Titans*, Jinmay on *Super Robot Monkey Team Hyperforce Go!* and Gwen Tennyson in the *Ben 10* franchise. A major voice role came when she provided the voice and motion capture for Ellie in the PlayStation action-adventure game *The Last of Us*, which was released to critical acclaim and commercial success.[12] She won a video game BAFTA for Best Performer, a VGX Award for Best Voice Actress, and a D.I.C.E. Award for Outstanding Character Performance[13] for her role in the game. On March 12, 2015, she won another BAFTA for Best Performer for the same role in the game's

downloadable content, *The Last of Us: Left Behind*.[14] In 2015, she voiced Petra the Warrior in *Minecraft: Story Mode* by Telltale Games and Mojang. In 2016, she voiced Tulip Olsen in the pilot for *Infinity Train* and reprised the role for the series in 2019, additionally voicing Lake and the Steward.

In 2020, Johnson reprised the role of Ellie in *The Last of Us Part II*. For her performance, she was nominated for Best Performance at The Game Awards 2020,[15] for Outstanding Achievement in Character at the 24th Annual D.I.C.E. Awards,[16] and for Best Performer in a Leading Role at the 17th British Academy Games Awards.[17] She portrayed Ellie's mother, Anna, in the live-action adaptation of *The Last of Us*.[18] On her performance in the adaptation, *The Daily Beast* commented that "with less than 10 minutes of screen time, Johnson gives us one of the best scenes of *The Last of Us*".[19]

Johnson (right) on the final day of motion capture production of *The Last of Us Part II* with Neil Druckmann (center) and Troy Baker (left)

Johnson appeared in several Geek & Sundry shows, including playing occult specialist Morgan on the web series *Spooked*, as well as the *Alhambra* and *Dead of Winter* episodes on the board gaming web series *TableTop*.[20][21] In 2015, she began playing Pike Trickfoot on the *Dungeons & Dragons* actual play show *Critical Role*; in 2018, she began playing Yasha Nydoorin in the show's second campaign.[22] *Critical Role* was both the Webby Winner and the People's Voice Winner in the "Games (Video Series & Channels)" category at the 2019 Webby Awards;[23] the show was also both a finalist and the Audience Honor Winner at the 2019 Shorty Awards.[24] After becoming hugely successful, the *Critical Role* cast left the Geek & Sundry network in early 2019 and set up their own production company, Critical Role Productions.[25][26][27][28] Soon after, they aimed to raise $750,000 on Kickstarter to create an animated series of their first campaign, but ended up raising over $11 million.[29] In November 2019, Amazon Prime Video announced that they had acquired the streaming rights to this animated series, now titled *The Legend of Vox Machina;*[30] Johnson reprised her role as Pike Trickfoot.[31] In late 2020, she was made president of the Critical Role Foundation, the studio's charity branch.[32][33] In June 2021, she was added to the cast of *Exandria Unlimited*, an anthology spinoff of *Critical Role*.[34][35][36] Three months later, she served as gamemaster for *The Nautilus Ark*, her own one-shot episode on the *Critical Role* channel.[37] In October 2021, Johnson's *Exandria Unlimited* character Fearne Calloway returned in *Critical Role*'s third campaign.[38]

Johnson set up a photography company called Infinity Pictures with Mila Shah, her childhood best friend who works as a production assistant and occasional actress; there have been no updates on the company for many years, though it is still registered as active as of 2022.[39] Johnson and Shah also co-hosted a podcast called *Wildly Hot & Bothered*, which ran for 13 episodes from 2012 to 2014.[40] In 2015, they created and starred in *Little Things*, a web miniseries on YouTube about two friends living in Los Angeles and their habit of making awkward everyday situations even worse. The series was not released on YouTube until 2018.[41]

Personal life

The first campaign of *Critical Role* began two years prior to the start of the series as a one-off, simplified *Dungeons & Dragons* game for Liam O'Brien's birthday.[42][43] The players enjoyed the game so much that they continued to play it and brought in additional friends, including Johnson, who joined in the second game.[43][44] After Felicia Day heard about the private home game from Johnson, she approached the group about playing it in a live-streamed format for Geek & Sundry.[45][46]

Johnson enjoys singing and can play the guitar, piano, violin, and cello; she occasionally posted covers of songs on her SoundCloud page until late 2012.[47] Her performance as Ellie in *The Last of Us Part II* included acoustic guitar covers of "Future Days" by Pearl Jam, "Take On Me" by A-ha, "True Faith" by New Order, and "Through the Valley" by Shawn James.[48] She also joined co-star Troy Baker (in character as Ellie and Joel) to perform a cover of Johnny Cash's rendition of "Wayfaring Stranger", which plays over the end credits of the game.[49] She later provided vocals for the *Critical Role* theme songs "Your Turn to Roll"[50] and "It's Thursday Night".[51]

In 2012, Johnson began dating writer and musician Brian W. Foster, who later hosted the *Critical Role* after-show *Talks Machina*.[52][53] They were first introduced by Troy Baker, Foster's roommate at the time, during the making of *The Last of Us*.[7] In December 2018, they announced their engagement.[54][55] In May 2023, Johnson separated from Foster and filed a restraining order against him, citing abuse and threats.[56][57] All videos and mentions of Foster were wiped from the online profiles of *Critical Role*.[58] In October 2023, Johnson and six other women (including her sister and two *Critical Role* employees) filed a lawsuit against Foster that alleged assault, domestic violence, gender violence, sexual battery, stalking, civil rights violations, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.[59][60][61] In January 2025, it was announced that the case had been dismissed after all parties involved in the lawsuit reached a private settlement.[62]

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1990	*Lionheart*	Nicole Gaultier	
1995	*Nine Months*	Shannon Dwyer	
1998	*Dancer, Texas Pop. 81*	Josie Hemphill	
	The First Snow of Winter	Sean McDuck (voice)	US dub; short film
1999	*Anywhere but Here*	Sarah	
2000	*What Women Want*	Alex Marshall	
2001	*Recess: School's Out*	Gretchen Grundler (voice)	[63]
	Recess Christmas: Miracle on Third Street	Gretchen Grundler (voice)	Direct-to-video
	Rustin	Lee Wolford	[64]
2003	*The Failures*	Lilly Kyle	
	Recess: All Growed Down	Gretchen Grundler (voice)	Direct-to-video[63]
	Recess: Taking the Fifth Grade	Gretchen Grundler (voice)	Direct-to-video[63]
2004	*Killer Diller*	Angie	
	King of the Corner	Elena Spivak	
2005	*Nearing Grace*	Merna Ash	
2006	*Fast Food Nation*	Amber	
	Grad Night	Student	
2007	*The Brothers Solomon*	Patricia	
2008	*Columbus Day*	Alana	
	Otis	Riley Lawson	
2009	*Spread*	Eva	
2010	*Christmas Cupid*	Jenny	
2011	*The Help*	Mary Beth Caldwell	
2012	*The Avengers*	Beth	
	Much Ado About Nothing	Margaret	
2015	*When Marnie Was There*	Emily, Miyoko (voice)	English dub
2016	*Punching Henry*	Danielle	
2018	*All You Can Eat*	Liza	

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes	Ref.
1990–1992	*Growing Pains*	Chrissy Seaver	Main role (seasons 6–7)	
1993	*Men Don't Tell*	Cindy	Television film	
	The Town Santa Forgot	Granddaughter (voice)	Television special	
	Timmy's Special Delivery: A Precious Moments Christmas	Holly, additional voices	Television special	
1993–1994	*Phenom*	Mary Margaret Doolan	Main role	
1994	*All-American Girl*	Casey Emmerson	Main role	
1995	*Annie: A Royal Adventure!*	Annie Warbucks	Television film	
	Roseanne	Lisa	Episode: "The Blaming of the Shrew"	
	What a Cartoon!	Mina (voice)	Episode: "Mina and the Count: Interlude with a Vampire"	[63]
1995–1996	*Maybe This Time*	Gracie Wallace	Main role	
1996–1999	*Jumanji*	Peter Shepherd (voice)	40 episodes	
1997	*Moloney*	Kate Moloney	3 episodes	
	Wings	Rebecca	Episode: "Ms. Write"	
1997–2001	*Recess*	Gretchen Grundler (voice)	129 episodes	
1998	*ER*	Dana Ellis	2 episodes	
	Kelly Kelly	Maureen Kelly	Main role	
2000	*The Growing Pains Movie*	Chrissy Seaver	Television film	
2001	*What About Joan?*	Jody Bradford	Episode: "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Joan"	
2002	*Ally McBeal*	Serena Feldman	Episode: "Heart and Soul"	
	The Guardian	Betsy Fortunato	Episode: "Sacrifice"	
	Lloyd in Space	Violet (voice)	4 episodes	
	Providence	Daphne Wallace	3 episodes	
	Roswell	Eileen Burrows	2 episodes	
	Touched by an Angel	Natalie Tate	Episode: "Bring On the Rain"	
2003–2004	*Married to the Kellys*	Shari	2 episodes	
2004	*Growing Pains: Return of the Seavers*	Chrissy Seaver	Television film	

Year	Title	Role	Notes	Ref.
2004–2006	*Super Robot Monkey Team Hyperforce Go!*	Jinmay (voice)	12 episodes	[63]
	Teen Titans	Terra (voice)	7 episodes	[63]
2004–2010	*King of the Hill*	Emily, Jamie (voice)	7 episodes	
2005	*The X's*	Kimla (voice)		
2006	*Lilo & Stitch: The Series*	Gretchen Grundler (voice)	Episode: "Lax"	
2007	*Heartland*	Rebecca Colton	Episode: "Mother & Child Reunion"	
	Monk	Susie the Maid	Episode: "Mr. Monk Is at Your Service"	
2007, 2014	*CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*	Dreama Little, Brothel Girl	2 episodes	
2008	*Dirt*	Sharlee Cates	Recurring role (season 2)	
	The Mentalist	Clara Tennant	Episode: "Seeing Red"	
	The Middleman	Eleanor Draper	Episode: "The Ectoplasmic Panhellenic Investigation"	
	Raising the Bar	Elise Denton	Episode: "Hang Time"	
2008–2010	*Ben 10: Alien Force*	Gwen Tennyson, additional voices	45 episodes	[63]
2009	*Cold Case*	Graces Stearns (1966)	Episode: "The Crossing"	
	Dollhouse	Wendy, Caroline, Hayden Leeds	2 episodes	
2010	*Funny or Die Presents*	Girlfriend	1 episode	
	Lie to Me	Valerie	Episode: "Beat the Devil"	
2010–2018	*Drunk History*	Various	3 episodes	
2010–2012	*Ben 10: Ultimate Alien*	Gwen Tennyson, additional voices	52 episodes	[63]
2011	*In Plain Sight*	Sarah Collins, Sarah Peterschwim	Episode: "Something A-mish"	
2011–2012	*The Killing*	Amber Ahmed	Recurring role (season 1); special guest (season 2)	
2011–2013	*Pound Puppies*	Amelia, Toyo, Gina, Giblet, Kid #1 (voice)	6 episodes	
2012	*Drop Dead Diva*	Veronica Kramer	Episode: "Road Trip"	
	Private Practice	Kelly	Episode: "The Time Has Come"	
2012–2014	*Ben 10: Omniverse*	Gwen Tennyson, additional voices	21 episodes	[63]
2013	*Masters of Sex*	Flora Banks	Episode: "Fallout"	

Year	Title	Role	Notes	Ref.
2013–present	*Teen Titans Go!*	Terra (voice)	6 episodes	[63]
2014	*Garfunkel and Oates*	Jane	Episode: "Speechless"	
2015	*Naruto: Shippuden*	Shiseru (voice)	English dub; 6 episodes	[65]
	Stalker	Stephanie Beekman	Episode: "My Hero"	
2015–2017	*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*	Renet (voice)	6 episodes	[63]
2015–2020	*Blindspot*	Patterson	Main role	
2019–2020	*Infinity Train*	Tulip Olsen, Mirror Tulip / Lake, Steward (voice)	20 episodes	[63]
2021	*Close Enough*	Kristen (voice)	Episode: "Where'd You Go, Bridgette?"	
	Family Guy	Lisa (voice)	Episode: "Customer of the Week"	
2022–present	*The Legend of Vox Machina*	Pike Trickfoot (voice)	Main role; also executive producer	[66][67][63]
2023	*The Last of Us*	Anna	Episode: "Look for the Light"	[68]
2025–present	*The Mighty Nein*	Yasha Nydoorin, additional voices (voice)	Main role; also executive producer	[69][70]
2026	*Among Us*	Purple (voice)		[71]

Video games

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2005	*Teen Titans*	Terra	[63]
2008	*Ben 10: Alien Force*	Gwen Tennyson	[63]
2009	*Ben 10 Alien Force: Vilgax Attacks*	Gwen Tennyson	[63]
	FusionFall	Gwen Tennyson	[72]
2010	*Ben 10 Alien Force: The Rise of Hex*	Gwen Tennyson	[63]
	Ben 10 Ultimate Alien: Cosmic Destruction	Gwen Tennyson	[63]
2013	*The Last of Us*	Ellie	Voice and motion capture[63] VGX Award for Best Voice Actress BAFTA Games Award for Best Performer D.I.C.E. Award for Outstanding Character Performance
2014	*The Last of Us: Left Behind*	Ellie	Also motion capture 2014 BAFTA Games Award for Best Performer[73]
	Infamous First Light	Jenny	[63]
	Tales from the Borderlands	Gortys, Hyperion System	"Hyperion System" is credited as "additional voices"
	Final Fantasy Explorers	Additional voices	English version
2015	*Skylanders: SuperChargers*	Gadfly Glades collector / additional voices	
	Minecraft: Story Mode	Petra	[63]
2016	*The Witness*	Additional voices	
	Lego Marvel's Avengers	Beth the Waitress	[74]
2017	*Minecraft: Story Mode – Season Two*	Petra	[63]
2018	*Pillars of Eternity II: Deadfire*	Narrator, Pike Trickfoot, Ydwin	*Critical Role* DLC[75][76]
2020	*The Last of Us Part II*	Ellie	Voice and motion capture[63] Nominated for Best Performance at The Game Awards 2020[77] Nominated for Best Performer in a Leading Role at 2020 BAFTA Games Award[78] Nominated for Outstanding Achievement in Character at the 24th Annual D.I.C.E. Awards[16] 2021 NAVGTR Award for Outstanding Performance in a Drama, Lead[79]
2023	*Stray Gods: The Roleplaying Musical*	Calliope	[80][63]
2025	*Date Everything!*	Beau	[63]

Year	Title	Role	Notes
	Dispatch	Ashley Rhiness, Brainbook	[81]

Web series

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2013–2015	*Tabletop*	Herself	2 episodes
2015–present	*Critical Role*	Pike Trickfoot (campaign 1)	Main cast; actual play ongoing series[82][83][84][85]
		Yasha Nydoorin (campaign 2)	
		Fearne Calloway, Trist (campaign 3)	
		Vaelus (campaign 4)	
2020	*Animal Talking with Gary Whitta*	Herself (voice)	1 episode[86]
2021	*Exandria Unlimited*	Fearne Calloway	8 episodes; actual play limited series[34][35][36]
2023	*Candela Obscura*	Auggie James	3 episodes; actual play limited series[87][88]
2025	*Weird Kids*	Herself	Podcast co-host[89]
	Age of Umbra	Misty	Actual play limited series using the *Daggerheart* system[90]

Audio books

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2022	*Critical Role: The Mighty Nein – The Nine Eyes of Lucien*	Yasha Nydoorin	[91]
2025	*Critical Role: Vox Machina - Stories Untold*	Narrator	[92]

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